

MSFT-01079/115148.2

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Nigel R. Ellis and Rodger N. Kline

Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned** Group Art Unit: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **December 16, 1998** Examiner: **Not Yet Assigned**

For: **AUTOMATIC DATABASE STATISTICS CREATION**

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend this application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-9, 11, and 12.

Please add claims 20 through 28, to appear as follows:

20. The computer of claim 10, wherein said threshold value is a constant.

21. The computer of claim 10, wherein said threshold value is a function of the data.

22. The method of claim 13, wherein the data is organized in tables formed from columns and rows and said step of automatically generating a statistic comprises automatically generating a statistic for a selected column.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising determining if said selected column is of a type for which a statistic can be generated.

24. The method of claim 14, wherein the data is organized in tables formed from columns and rows and said step of generating a statistic comprises automatically generating a statistic for a selected column.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising determining if said selected column is of a type for which a statistic can be generated.

26. The method of claim 16, wherein said threshold value is a constant.

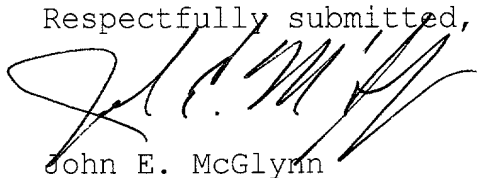
27. The method of claim 16, wherein said threshold value is a function of the data.

28. The method of claim 18, wherein the data is organized in tables formed from columns and rows and said step of generating a statistic comprises automatically generating a statistic for a selected column.

REMARKS

The purpose of this amendment is to place the claims in condition for examination. An expedient and favorable first office action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date:

12/26/01

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